



NEWS RELEASE
HONOLULU ETHICS COMMISSION
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Honolulu Ethics Commission Finds No Ethics Law
Violations in BWS – But Asks Auditor for Review**

After an investigation, the Honolulu Ethics Commission found no ethics law violations in the award of three BWS contracts, including one related to the recent billing and customer service problems. However, as a result of the investigation, the Commission requests the City Auditor to examine certain topics in the Auditor's ongoing management and performance audit of BWS.

The Commission's investigation was requested by the BWS based on allegations of misconduct by a member of the public. The Commission examined whether any relationships existed between the BWS contract selection committee members and those awarded the contracts. There were no business, financial or personal relationships that created a conflict of interest. Similarly, the allegations of preferential treatment by BWS employees for those obtaining the contracts were not substantiated.

But, the Commission found certain systemic problems and has asked BWS and the City Auditor to take corrective action to prevent possible ethics violations in the future. The topics include procurement training for BWS staff, prevention of disclosure of confidential information and the management of multiple change orders increasing the work and value of the contract.

Advisory Opinion No. 2014-1 is available at:

<http://www1.honolulu.gov/ethics/advisoryopinions.htm>.

The Commission speaks through its advisory opinions and staff is not allowed to comment on an opinion. Questions about the Commission or its process may be directed to Chuck Totto, Executive Director and Legal Counsel, at ctotto@honolulu.gov or 768-7786.

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